

8 Bandits Rob 4 Stores, but Get Only \$463

Two Hoboken Grocery Managers and Brooklyn Jeweler and General Shopman Victims of Hold-Ups

Clerk Cut With Hatchet

Bernard Levy, 50, Opposes Three Negroes and Is Slashed by One on High

Eight bandits participated yesterday in four robberies in four different stores in the vicinity of New York. Their total loot was only \$463, but they sent one man to the hospital. Of the eight robbers one is held by the police. He is charged with being concerned in the hold-up of Simon Gold, who has a jewelry store at 5515 Third avenue, South Brooklyn.

Besides Gold, the victims were Lawrence Wick, manager of the Atlantic and Pacific Company's branch at 517 Central avenue, Hoboken; John Hyde, who manages an Eagle grocery at 184 Summit avenue, in the same town, and Bernard Levy, a clerk, in the general merchandise shop of J. M. Lyons at 216 Myrtle avenue, Brooklyn.

Levy is in the Cumberland Street Hospital, with a severely cut leg and scalp wounds. He is weak because of loss of blood and but for the prompt action of Detective William Brown, might have been killed. Brown, a tough-tongued out of his handkerchief and a patrolman's night stick, which he bound above a deep gash in Levy's right leg, stopping the flow of blood.

Levy said that three negroes came into the store last night and asked to see wedding rings. As Levy stooped to reach the rings out of a show case, he was stunned by a blow on the head from an iron bar held by one of the men. Levy is fifty years old, was still full of fight, and the four men battled all over the store, until one of the negroes, reaching for a hatchet, brought the weapon down on Levy's right thigh cutting it almost to the bone. The three bandits fled, leaving Levy behind them, and taking away a tray of cheap jewelry valued at about \$8.

Police Blame Managers
The Hoboken robbers got \$270 at the two grocery stores. The managers got little sympathy from the police, since the Hoboken banks were opened for a few hours on Sunday for the express purpose of affording merchants an opportunity of putting their Christmas Eve takings into safe keeping. The descriptions which they gave indicate that the four men were of the same type of smooth-tongued, newly-shaved and perfumed young men reported before.

A man who said he wanted to buy a diamond ring and another who said he was an insurance agent, worked in partnership on the robbery at the jewelry store of Gold. They grabbed three rings, valued altogether at \$180, and got away in an automobile, which waited for them at the curb. Gold was unable to stop their exit, but he took the number of the car, and an hour later Charles Burke, 1961 Castleton avenue, New Rochelle, N. Y., was arrested in a hallway at 7th Street, after he had been chased.

Manhattan Bridge by several patrolmen, who recognized the license number of Burke's car as that of the one concerned in the Gold hold-up. The other two men were not in the automobile when it was captured. Burke is held at the Fourth Avenue police station, Brooklyn.

Crash of Surface Car And Truck Injures 4
Eugene Miner, Motorman of Bronx Trolley, Sustains Severe Internal Hurts

A surface car running north on Southern Boulevard, the Bronx, last night hit a five-ton truck which had backed across the car tracks from a gas service station. The blow threw the truck to the sidewalk, crushed the front of the car and injured four persons, one of them seriously.

Eugene Miner, twenty-one years old, of 341 Concord avenue, the Bronx, the motorman of the street car, was taken to Lincoln Hospital suffering from internal injuries and lacerations of the face and body. His condition is serious. The other victims, who were attending on the spot and went later to their homes, were George Weaver, fifty-two years old, of 240 East 14th Street, the Bronx, lacerations of head and face and minor contusions; William Harnish, twenty-two years old, of 661 Jefferson Place, the Bronx, cuts on the face and hands from flying glass; Samuel Abramovich, twenty-three years old, of 995 Home Avenue, the Bronx, contusions of head, left arm and both legs.

Samuel Mark, the driver of the truck, who was not injured, was arrested by Patrolman Benesh, of the Alexander Avenue station, and charged with assault.

Her Curiosity Reunites Long Lost Orphaned Kin
Sisters and Brother Parted in Infancy Meet in Time to Go to Father's Funeral

A woman's curiosity resulted in a Christmas reunion in Westhampton, L. I., of two sisters and a brother who had not seen each other since early childhood, it became known yesterday. The sisters are Mrs. Mildred Schmittman, of Newark, and Miss Eloise Pounding, of Bayhead, L. I. The brother is John L. King, a newspaper publisher of Westhampton.

Years ago the wife of Edward Pounding, of New York, died, leaving three infant children. They were placed in separate homes and two were later legally adopted by their foster parents. They lost all trace of each other. A long search by Mr. King and Miss Pounding finally disclosed that their sister had married and was living in Newark. While Miss Pounding was visiting in East Orange she happened to glance through the telephone book and saw Mrs. Schmittman's name. She called the number in the hope that it might be her long lost sister. The reunion resulted.

The joy of the reunited family was dampened, however, as word was received on Christmas Eve that their father had died in the Soldiers' Home at Hampton, Va. The members of the family are attending the funeral.

You Do the Talking, Enright Hires the Hall

A monthly forum, to be devoted to raising the standard of police efficiency and to be held on the second Tuesday of each month, has been established, according to an announcement issued yesterday by Police Commissioner Enright. Both citizens and members of the force will be allowed to discuss any topic in the interest and betterment of the service with the police officials.

The chairman of the forum will be Mr. Martin Dolph, Assistant Corporation Counsel, assigned to the Police Department. In future every one writing to the Commissioner or delegations calling to see him on matters concerning the department will be asked to address the forum.

Asylum Guards Are Charged With Death of Patient

Connecticut Judge Holds 3 After Hearing Evidence They Were Compelled to Use Force on Madman

Special Dispatch to The Tribune
HARTFORD, Conn., Dec. 26.—Three guards of the State Insane Asylum at Middletown were held for the Middlesex County Superior Court to-day by Judge Warner in the Middlesex police court on charges of manslaughter resulting from the poisoning to death of Peter Palonelli, an insane patient who was released by the asylum.

The guards bound over to the high court are John H. Walsh, James Morrison and Thomas Tobin. Judge Warner discharged a fourth guard, David Keefe, for lack of evidence.

In deciding to hold the men Judge Warner said the question involved was whether the attendants used more than reasonable force in their efforts to subdue the man, and as that was not a question for him to decide he found it necessary to bind them over.

Medical Examiner John E. Loveland testified that he found twenty-three ribs in Palonelli's body had been broken and that the heart had been injured by pressure from one of the attendants of the ribs.

Gustave B. Carlson, counsel for the men, told the court the attendants could not have acted differently and protected themselves. He said the dead man was a violent maniac and when Morrison appeared Palonelli dealt him a savage blow between the eyes, breaking his glasses. Judge Carlson said Morrison tried to grab the insane man and restrain him, and Walsh and Tobin hurried to his assistance, with the result that within a few minutes it was a case of four men being all over the floor. Chairs were broken and, according to the defense, repeated falls of Palonelli over the furniture caused the injuries which resulted in his death.

Palonelli, who was thirty-six years old, was sentenced for fifteen years in the Superior Court of New Haven County April 20, 1921, for an assault with intent to kill, having attempted to shoot his wife. The shot did not take effect and Palonelli then shot himself and jumped from a third-story window.

His leg was broken, and it was some weeks before he was able to be in court on crutches. His case was given a bad aspect by a sudden attack which Palonelli made in court on an attorney defending him. He struck the lawyer with his crutch and the court officials had to restrain him.

Dr. Roy L. Leak, superintendent of the hospital, to-day characterized Palonelli as cross and ugly.

Parents Again Ask for Unimpeded School Board
Association Points to Ryan's Admission That Building Program Is Inadequate

The United Parents' Association of Greater New York Schools made its second public appeal for the partial divorce of the Board of Education from the control of the Board of Estimate yesterday, using the official admission that the present building plan will not catch up with the need as a basis for their insistence.

"President Ryan's letter expressing alarm over the part-time situation and now openly admitting that the tremendous building program the Board of Education has under way will not, as has been anticipated, correct existing or future conditions, absolutely confirms the investigation by the association," the appeal begins.

"There is only one way that human endeavor will enable us to bring part-time to an end—divorce the Board of Education from the Board of Estimate so far as jurisdiction over building of schools, is concerned—limit the Board of Estimate to approval of initial appropriations of sites and checking of expenditures for the protection of the city and taxpayer, legislate to cut the Gordian knot of delay now inseparable because of red tape restrictions imposed by the Board of Estimate and cut down by less than one-half the present average of three years required to erect a school."

"Center all responsibility in the Board of Education providing schools in record time and the part-time curse will be wiped out."

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2 Are Held in Million-Dollar Mail Swindle

Seized at St. Louis, on Way to Mexico, W. L. Cunningham and Valet Face Charges in New York and Baltimore

Arrested by U. S. Agents

Community Finance Corp'n Named in Connection With Fraud Accusations

Special Dispatch to The Tribune
ST. LOUIS, Dec. 26.—Postoffice inspectors, co-operating with Burns operatives, city detectives and police-men, acting on advice from government authorities in New York and Baltimore, to-day arrested W. L. Cunningham, thirty-nine years old, of East Orange, N. J., and Frank H. Carter, an English valet, as the pair, with Mrs. Cunningham and Mrs. Austin H. Montgomery, and the latter's three children and her French maid, started to board a train here for Mexico City.

The authorities were reported as especially anxious to take into custody, was said by members of the party to have gone previously to Mexico City. Postoffice inspectors and Burns operatives believe Carter, who styles himself Montgomery's valet, may be Montgomery himself.

Mail Swindle Charged
C. W. Tobie, manager of the St. Louis branch of the Burns agency, said Cunningham and Montgomery are charged with using the mails to defraud. Tobie said the order for the arrest of the two men followed the government's investigation of a \$1,000,000 swindle in New York and Baltimore.

The alleged swindle grew out of the activities of the Community Finance Corporation, which operated in New York and Baltimore until late last summer. The company, it is said, used the so-called blind pool plan, made famous by Ponzi, the Boston speculator.

Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham, Carter, Mrs. Montgomery, her children and her maid arrived in St. Louis yesterday from Montreal. They had through tickets from Montreal to Mexico City.

Cunningham and Carter were taken to Police Headquarters. Cunningham, it is said, offered to give Ward \$50 with which to hire a guard if Ward would permit him to spend the night in a hotel. The women and children went to the Claridge Hotel. Twenty-one pieces of baggage, including eleven trunks, suitcases, handbags and a bull-dog, were seized by the government agents.

\$4,000,000 Loss in Baltimore
BALTIMORE, Dec. 26.—Bearing Federal warrants for the arrest of William J. Cunningham, alleged associate of Austin H. Montgomery, said to be the "master mind" of the Community Finance Corporation and other alleged blind pool systems operating here, Joseph S. Knapp Jr., receiver, and Karl F. Steinberg, an attorney, departed tonight for St. Louis, where Cunningham is being held in \$5,000 bond.

Cunningham, besides being wanted by New York authorities in an alleged scheme to use the mails to defraud, will in all probability be brought here to testify in the prosecution of the promoters of the pool which is said to have defrauded people of this city to the extent of more than \$4,000,000.

It was said that a detective agency would appeal to the State Department at Washington to aid in extraditing Montgomery, said to be in Mexico. The chief postal inspector also would be appealed to, it was stated.

Convicted Traitor Jumps Bond
CHARLESTON, W. Va., Dec. 26.—Walter Allen, union miner, facing a ten-year prison term following a conviction on a charge of treason against the state, has fled from West Virginia and his bond of \$15,000 has been forfeited. It became known here to-day. Although a formal appeal had not been filed by attorneys for Allen, he was released on bail by Judge John Mitchell Woods pending appeal to the Supreme Court.

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Girl, 2, Drinks Poison Used to Aid Brother

Nine-year-old John Fallon and his two-year-old sister Anna, of 7 Lebanon Terrace, Astoria, were placed in the same ambulance yesterday afternoon and taken to St. John's Hospital, the boy suffering from an air rifle bullet wound over the left eye, the girl from the effects of drinking the contents of a bottle of iodine which had been used as an antiseptic for her brother's injury. Dr. Cherkow, the ambulance physician, said that neither child had suffered permanent injury, although an X-ray will be necessary to find the shot in the boy's head.

Sinn Feiners Act For a Permanent Peace in Ireland

To Reconvene Ard Fheis on January 7 for Action; Three Crimeless Days as Christmas Passes

DUBLIN, Dec. 26 (By The Associated Press).—Another move for peace in Ireland was made over the Christmas holiday. At a meeting of Sinn Fein clubs at the Mansion House Sunday night a resolution was passed in favor of reconvening the last Ard Fheis, or general convention of the Sinn Fein clubs, with a view to taking steps to secure "a just and permanent peace."

This conference has been summoned for January 7. Ireland passed a peaceful Christmas. For nearly three days the country has been immune from crime. The Cabinet ministers, for the first time in many weeks, left the government buildings going to spend the holiday with their families. The railway companies report that about 5,000 persons crossed from England to pass the holiday period with relatives in Ireland.

Eamon de Valera has issued a declaration which he signs "on behalf of the government and the army." He extends greetings to every citizen and soldier of the republic, declaring "We consecrate ourselves anew to the achievement of the independence of our country."

He appeals to the people to pray that God "shall bless our efforts and bring our harassed people the liberty, peace and happiness they need and desire."

Hurt, He Absolves Driver Victim Fixing Tire When Car Skids Into Him

An automobile owned by Hiram R. Mallinson, of H. R. Mallinson & Co., silk manufacturers, 299 Fifth Avenue, skidded on the ice on North Broadway in front of St. John's Hospital, Yonkers, yesterday afternoon, swung into Louis Rubin, of 29 Hamilton Avenue, Ossining, and broke his leg in two places. Mr. Mallinson's chauffeur, Alexander McKendrick, of 409 Colin Street, Yonkers, took the injured man to the hospital.

Rubin was kneeling beside his own car fixing a tire when he was hurt. He declined to make any complaint, admitting that, considering the condition of the road, the accident was unavoidable and that the Mallinson automobile was not speeding. McKendrick was alone in the car.

Sued, Denies He Is Father of Girl Born 15 Years Ago

Brooklyn Diamond Cutter Defends His Refusal to Live With His Wife and Her Child, Now Dead

The legitimacy of a child who died last July became a court question yesterday when Mrs. Eleanor Metzger, of 14 Prospect Park, Southwest, Brooklyn, filed suit for separation in the Supreme Court against Adolph Metzger, a diamond cutter, of 55 Agnes Place, Brooklyn.

In an affidavit supporting her suit Mrs. Metzger upbraids her husband for his "monstrous charge," and in his answer he swears it would have been impossible for him to have been the father of the child.

She was married April 8, 1907, according to the affidavit, and one daughter was born, Virginia Margaret, who died July 22 of this year. It was her husband's alleged refusal to support the child and to live with her as her husband that furnish the grounds for the suit.

"He denies that the child was the issue of our marriage," Mrs. Metzger said. "This denial comes from a man who refused to live with me as my husband and contributed to the support of an invalid, helpless child only when compelled by the court to do so. He refused to pay the undertaker's bills for his own flesh and blood till after he was sued."

"After all these fifteen years and his many admissions that the child was his he rips open the grave and brands that mute body as illegitimate."

"I met my wife," he said, "at the end of September, 1906, at Coney Island. Subsequently I met her several times and spent some time with her at a hotel."

Each time after the first meeting, he swore, she told him she was to become a mother and that he was responsible.

"I was then only twenty-one," he said, "and believed her. I married her to reinstate her in the eyes of her friends. On the ninth day following our marriage the child was born. The twelve days after our first meeting and neither she nor her physician ever claimed the baby was not a full-grown infant at birth."

Judge Stephen Callaghan reserved decision on the petition for alimony and counsel fees.

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